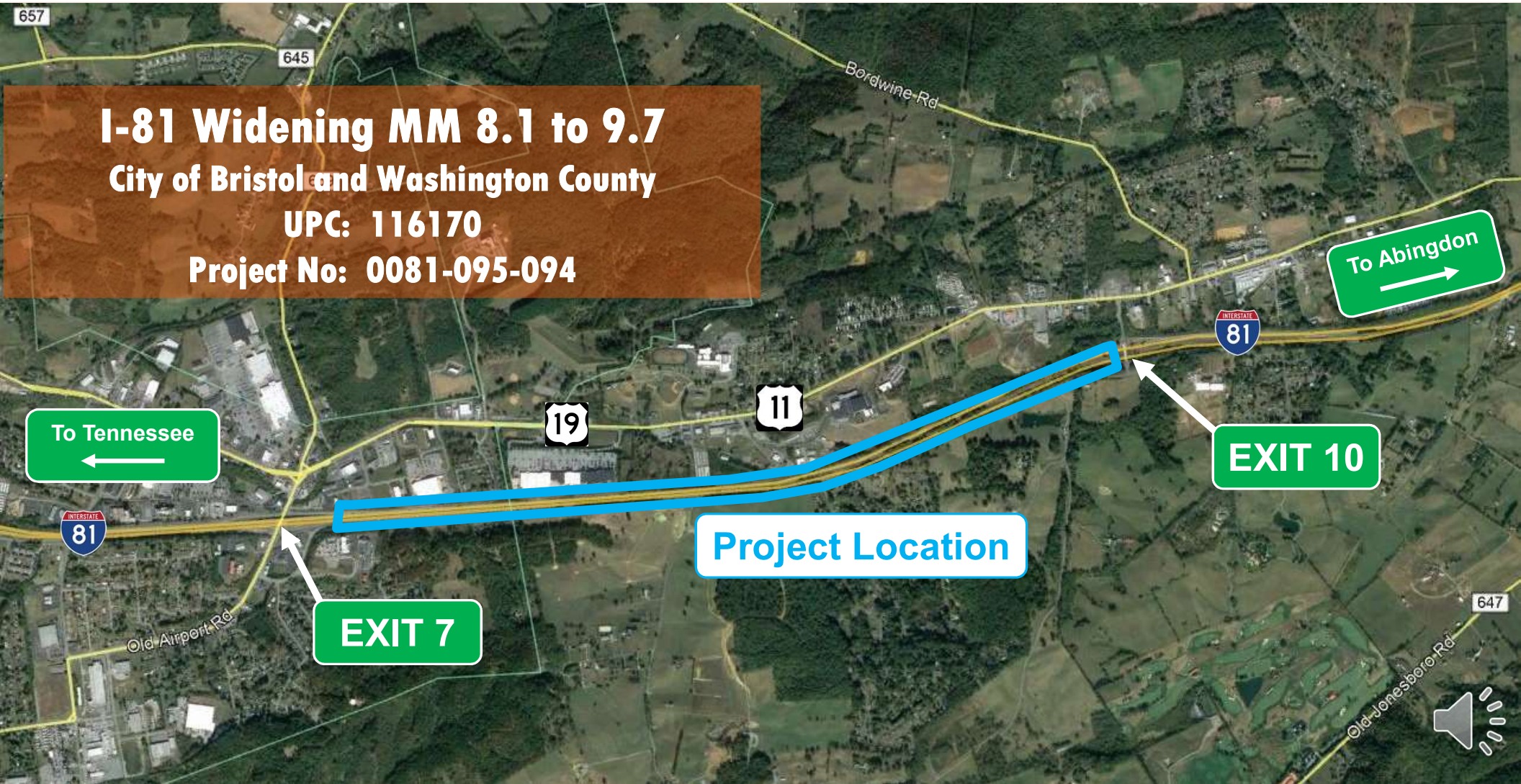


# Virtual Design Public Meeting Presentation

I-81 widening between exits 7 and 10  
City of Bristol and Washington County





# Design Public Hearing in Response to Public Health

This Design Public Hearing is being held in accordance with current CDC and Commonwealth of Virginia health guidelines. All information presented at the Design Public Hearing can be found on VDOT's website, including the following:

- ✓ Project Information
- ✓ Estimated timeline
- ✓ Process for submitting comments
- ✓ Key contacts

**COVID-19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

## Share Facts About COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

**FACT 1** Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

**FACT 2** Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19.

People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure.

**FACT 3** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

**FACT 4** You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

**FACT 5** There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

# Design Public Hearing Agenda

1	• Welcome
2	• Public Comment Process
3	• Project Overview
4	• Environmental Overview
5	• Project Schedule and Next Steps
6	• Adjournment



## How to submit your comments

Please submit your comments regarding the design presented in this Design Public Hearing by using any of the four methods below by our deadline of November 7, 2021.



### Leave a Voicemail

(276) 696-3255



### Email Me

[Gene.Holley@vdot.Virginia.gov](mailto:Gene.Holley@vdot.Virginia.gov)



### Mail Us

Virginia Department of Transportation  
2111 Bonham Road  
Bristol VA 24201  
ATTN: Gene Holley



### Online

<https://www.virginiadot.org/i81SouthWideningWashCo>



Virginia Department of Transportation

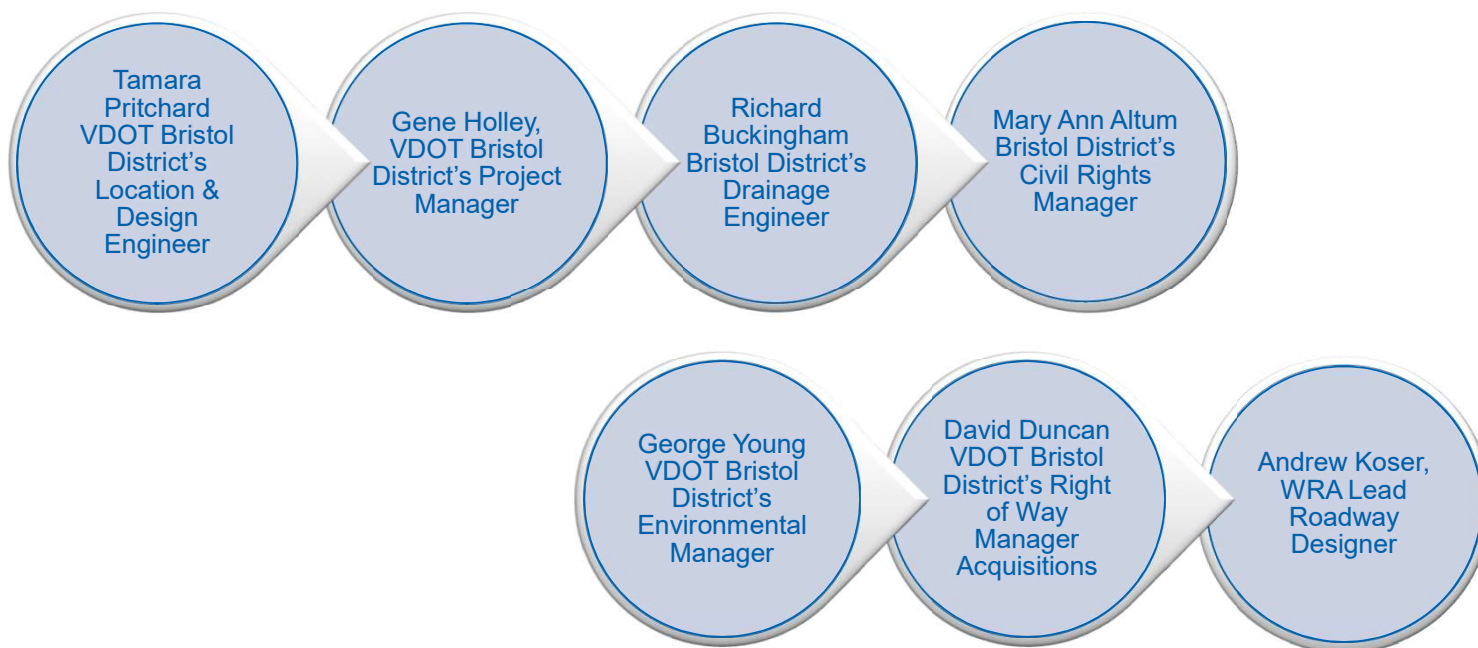


## Design Public Hearing Purpose

- Inform the public of project status and present recommendations.
- Describe the project so the public can determine how they may be affected.
- Provide the public the opportunity to provide input.
- Develop a record of public participation.



## Project Team



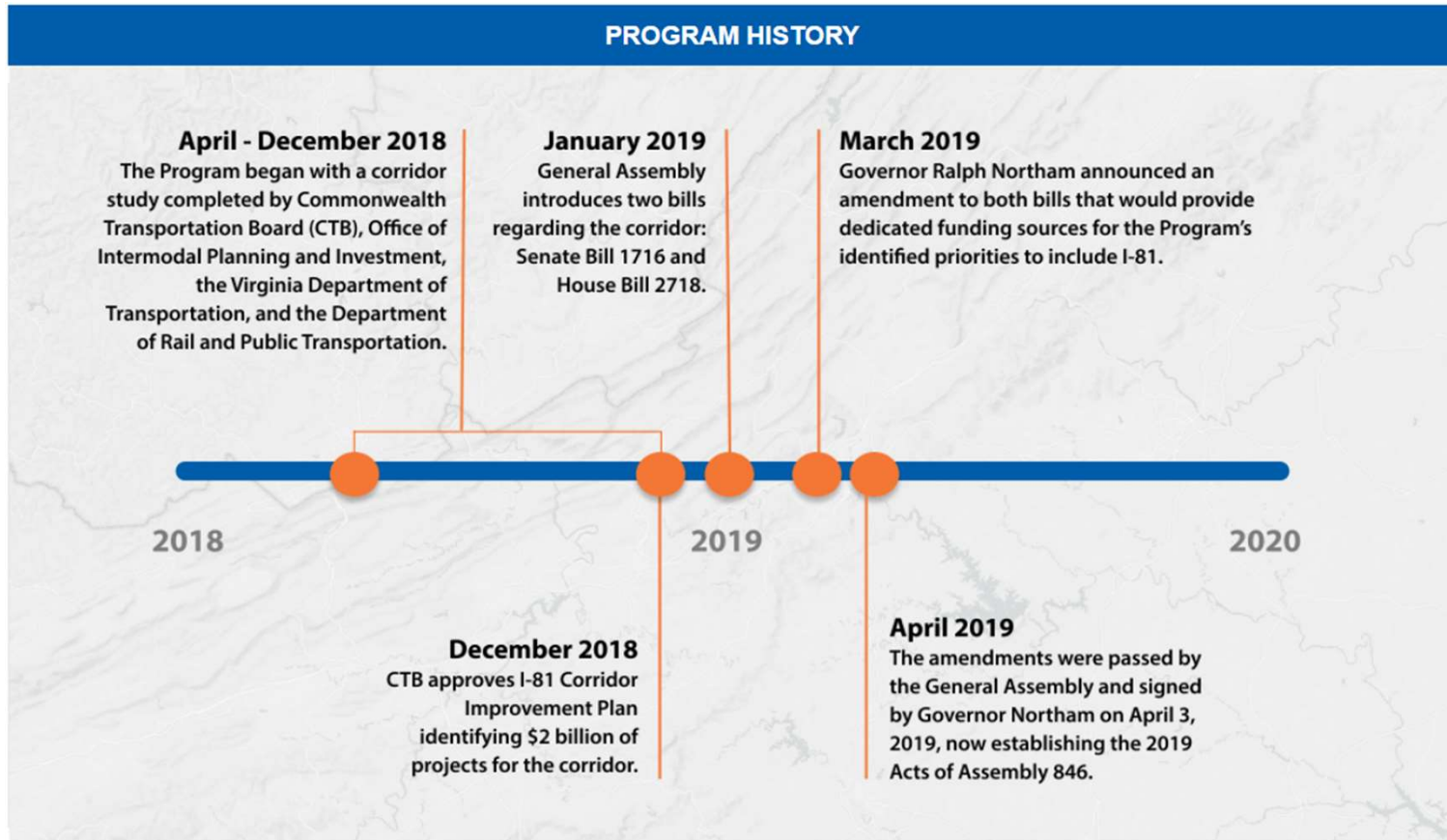
# Project History

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- This project is part of the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program, which identified areas of congestion and safety along the corridor
- The Bristol District currently has 27 projects along I-81 in various stages of development



# Program History



## Project Purpose

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- Project initiated as part of VDOT's I-81 Corridor Improvement Program
- Widen I-81 Southbound to three lanes from mile marker 9.7 to mile marker 8.1
- Construction 2024 - 2026



# Current Conditions



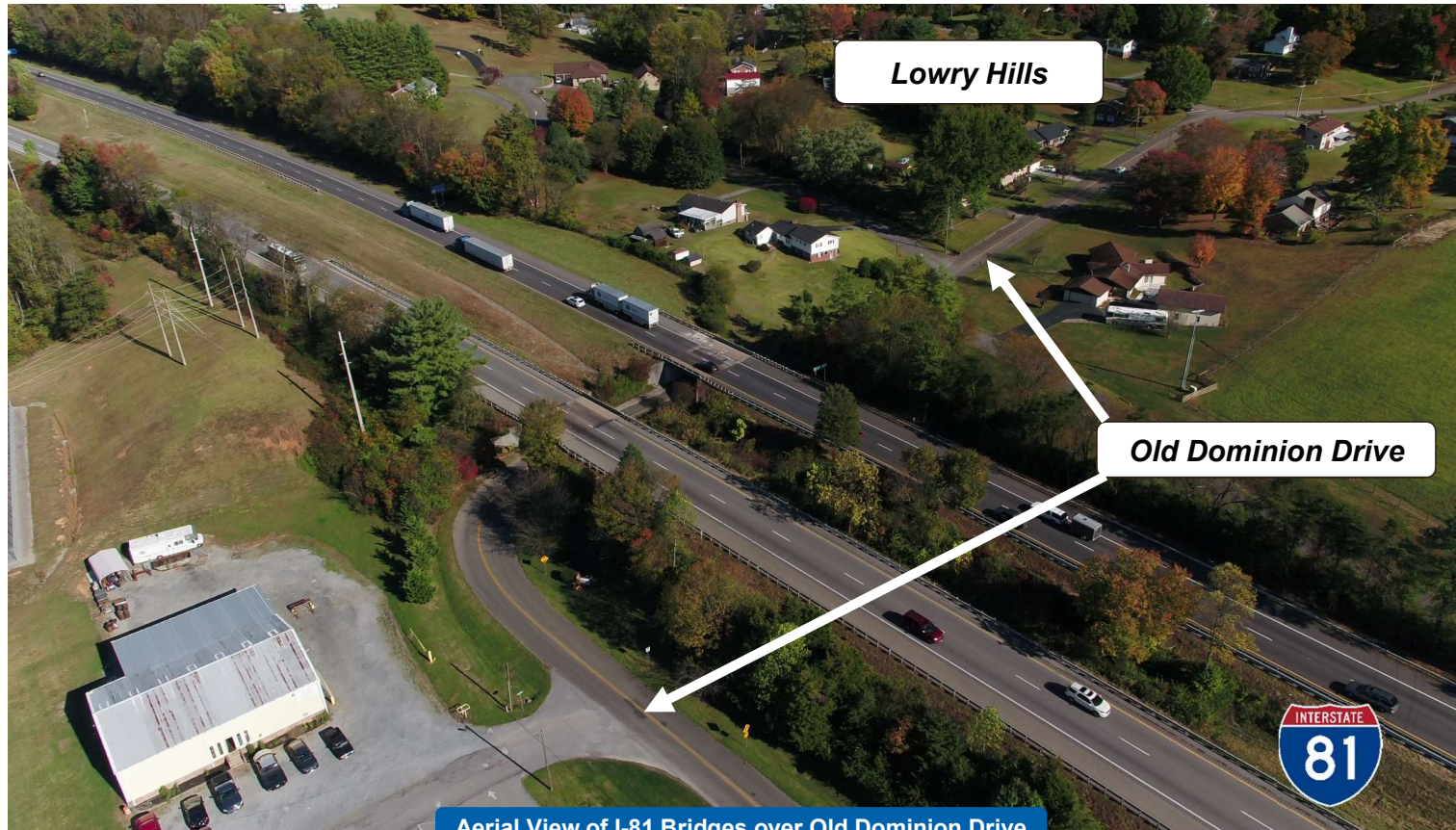
## Current Conditions – I-81 Exit 7



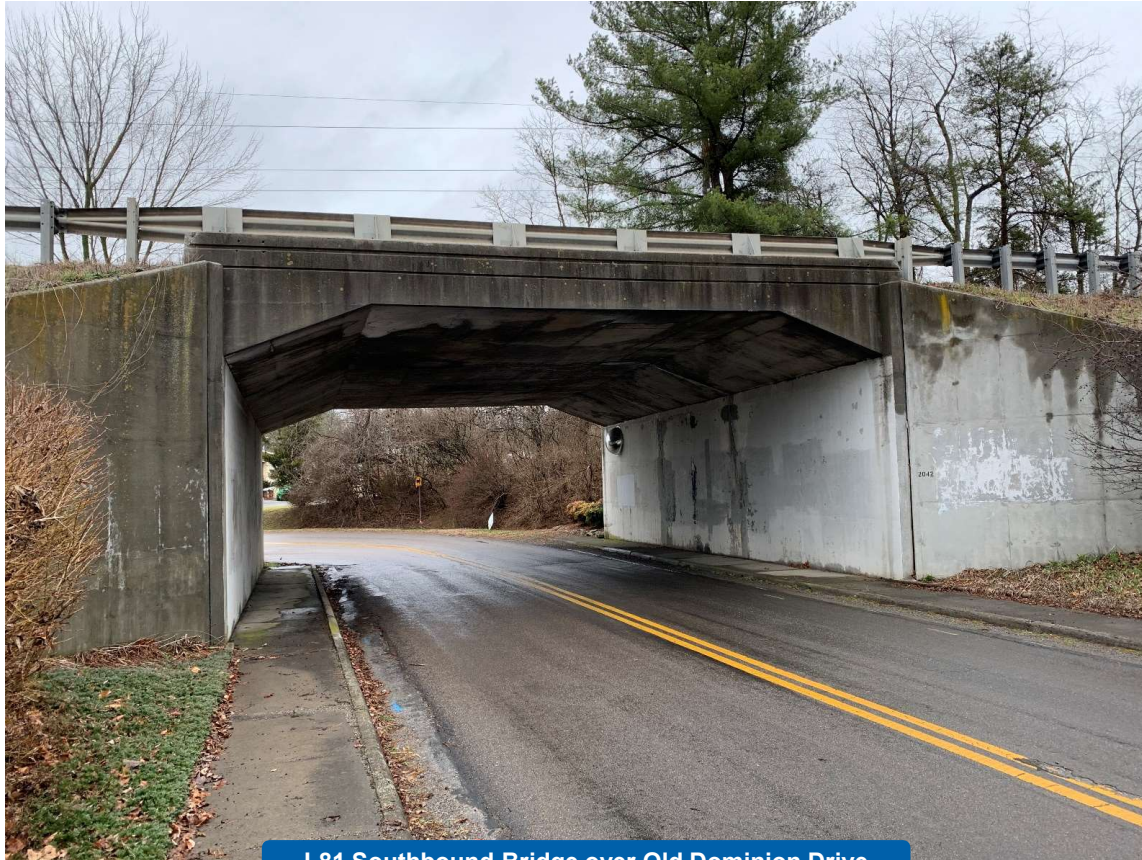
## Current Conditions – I-81 Exit 10



# Current Conditions – I-81 Over Old Dominion Drive



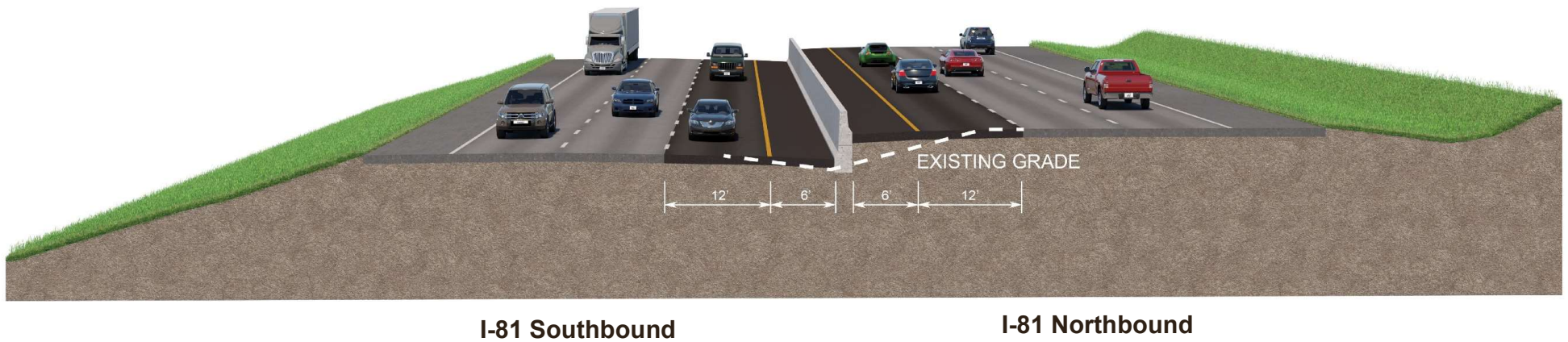
## Current Conditions – I-81 SB Over Old Dominion Drive



I-81 Southbound Bridge over Old Dominion Drive



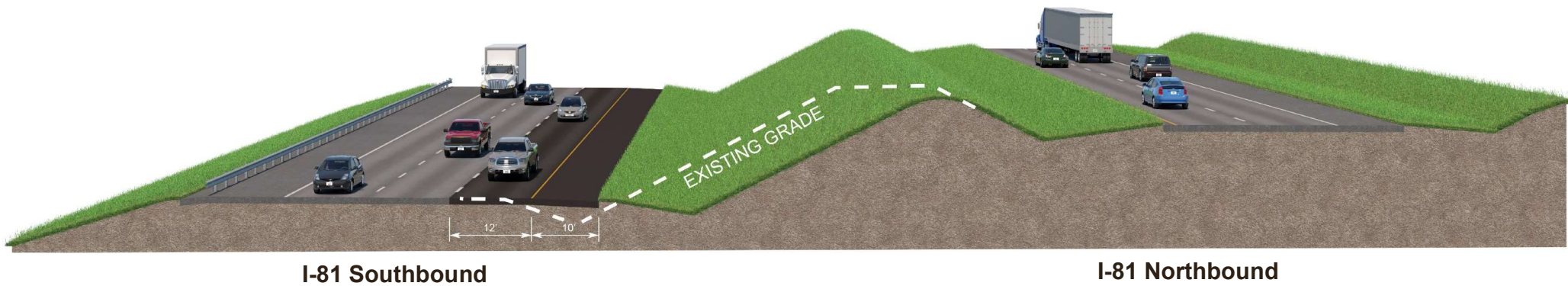
# Project Overview – Typical Section for Southern Portion



**Additional Lane in Both Southbound and Northbound Directions**



# Project Overview – Typical Section for Northern Portion

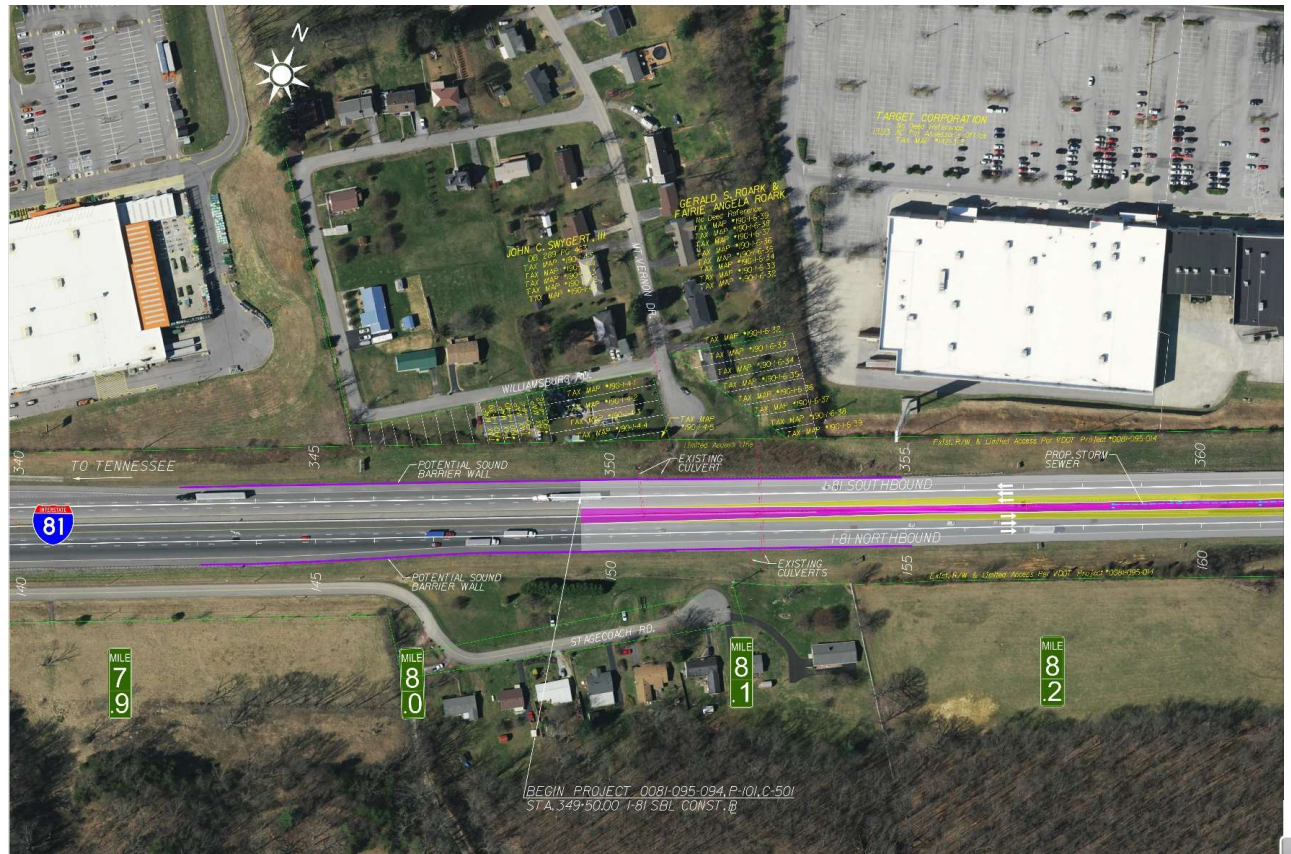


**Additional Lane in the Southbound Direction**



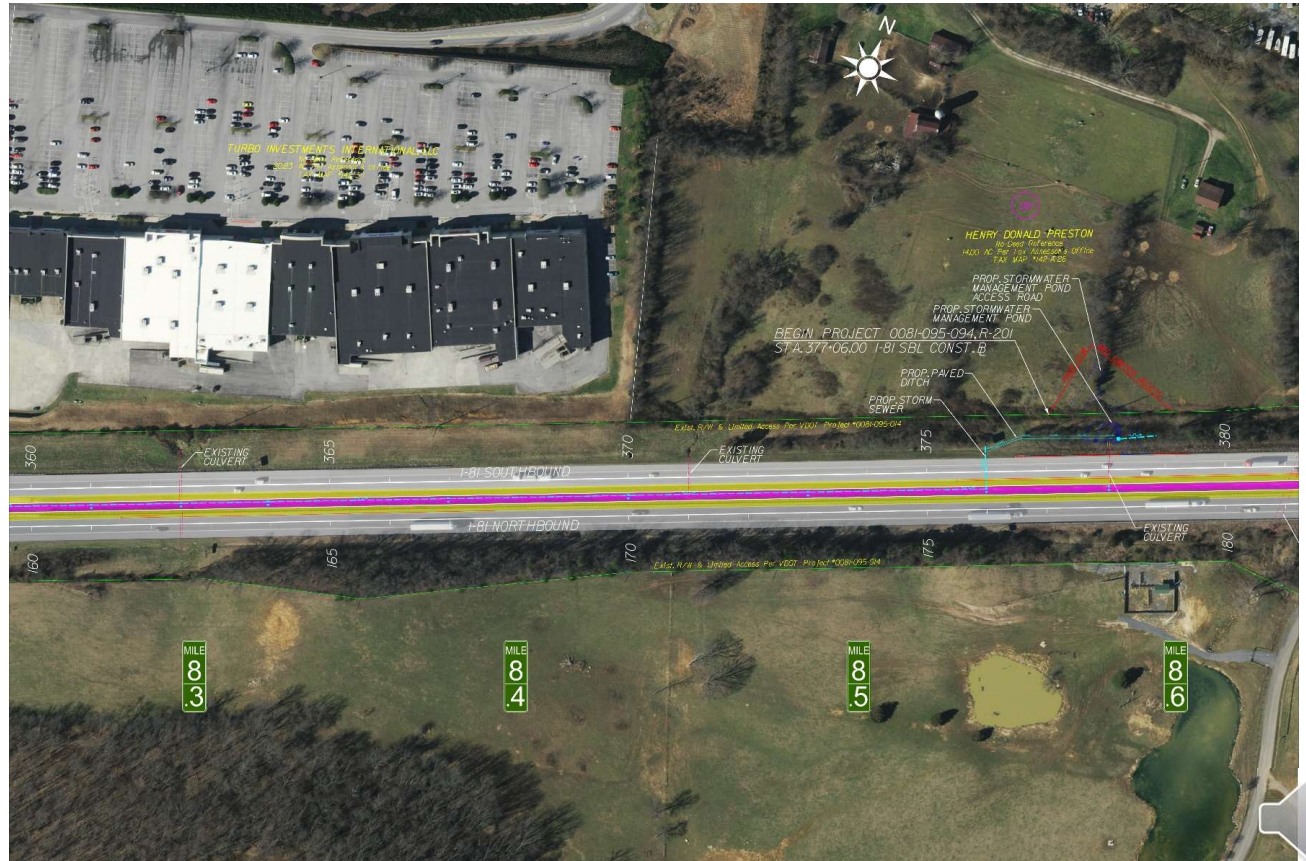
# Project Overview

- The project begins just north of the I-81 exit 7 interchange in Bristol, connecting to the current 6-lane section of I-81
- Interstate widening in this area occurs in the median, limiting right of way impacts along the outside of the north and southbound lanes
- One additional lane south and northbound will be developed in this area
- Concrete median barrier is used to separate north and southbound lanes of I-81
- Potential sound barrier walls are being studied adjacent to the residential areas



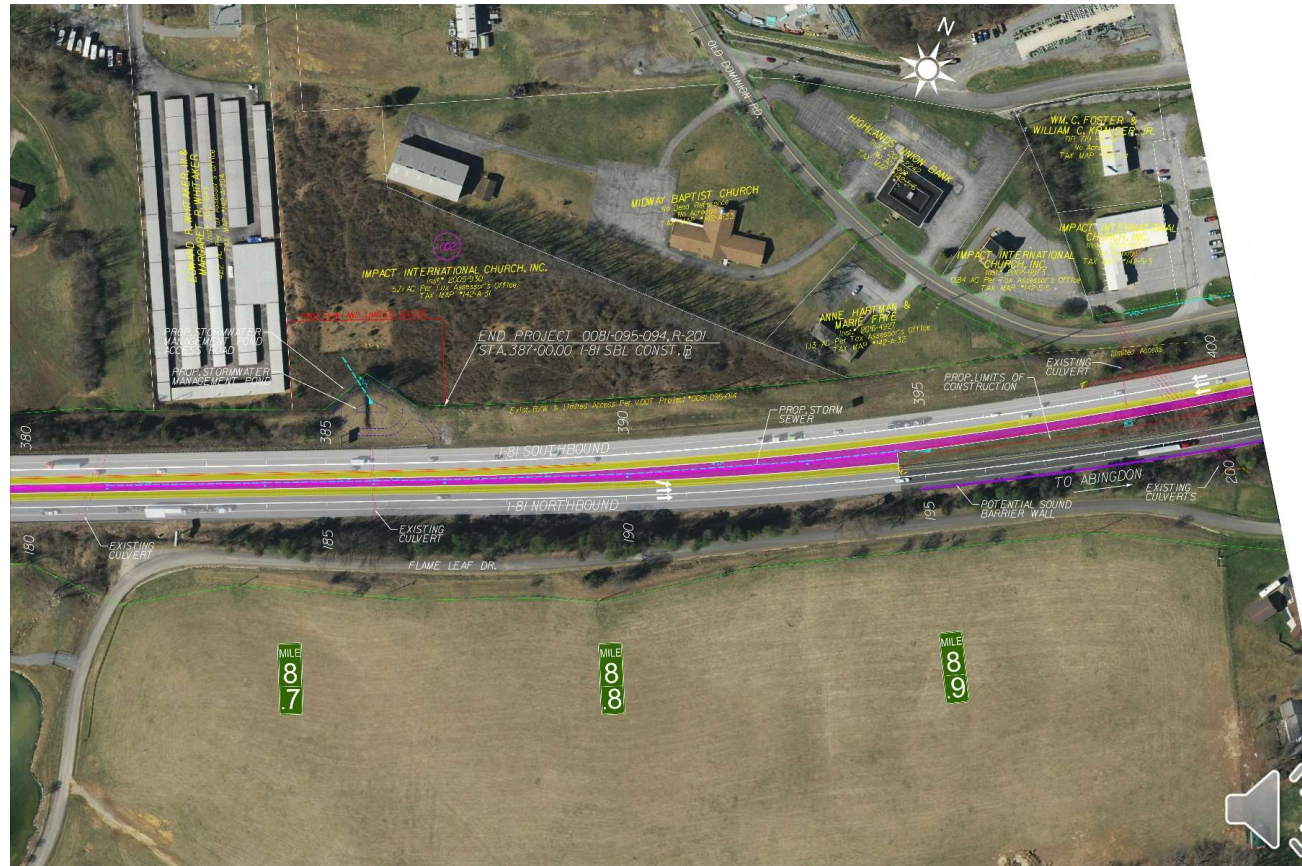
# Project Overview

- Interstate widening in this area continues in the median, limiting right of way impacts along the outside of the northbound and southbound lanes
- Concrete median barrier is used to separate the north and southbound lanes of I-81
- To control stormwater runoff and stormwater confinement features are necessary adjacent to the I-81 southbound lanes.



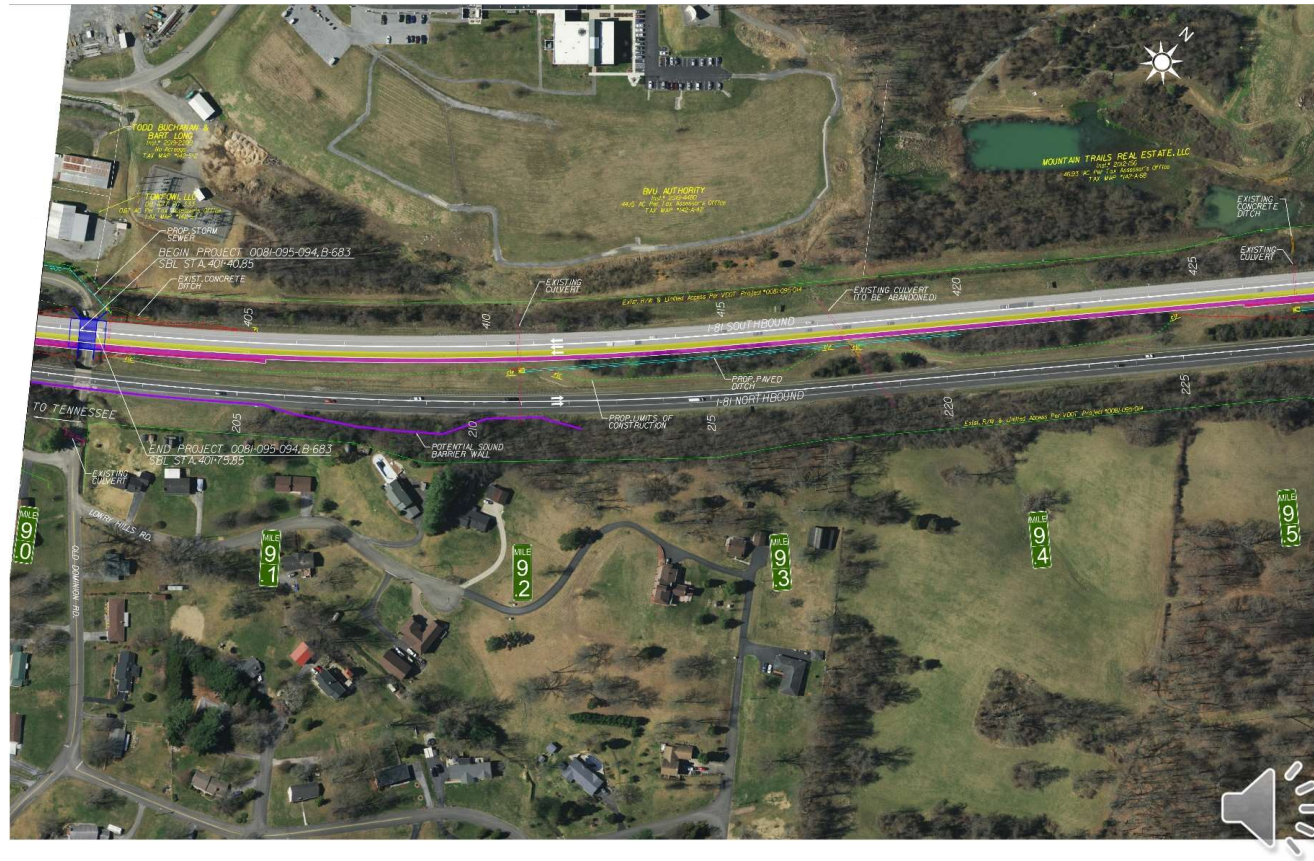
# Project Overview

- Interstate widening in this area continues in the median, limiting right of way impacts
- The third lane of I-81 northbound transitions back to the current 2-lane section just south of the Old Dominion Drive crossing
- The I-81 southbound bridge over Old Dominion Drive will be rehabilitated and widened to accommodate the third lane of I-81 southbound
- The I-81 northbound bridge over Old Dominion Drive will be rehabilitated with a subsequent project
- Potential sound barrier walls are being studied adjacent to the residential areas



# Project Overview

- Interstate widening of I-81 southbound in this area continues in the median, limiting right of way impacts
- The wider median width of I-81 in this area allows for the additional southbound lane to be developed independently of the current northbound lanes



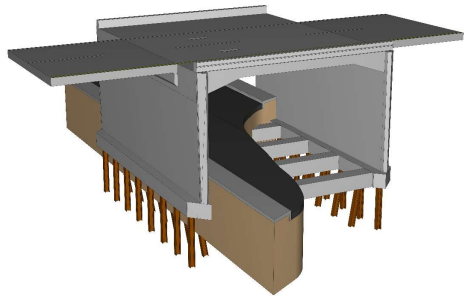
# Project Overview



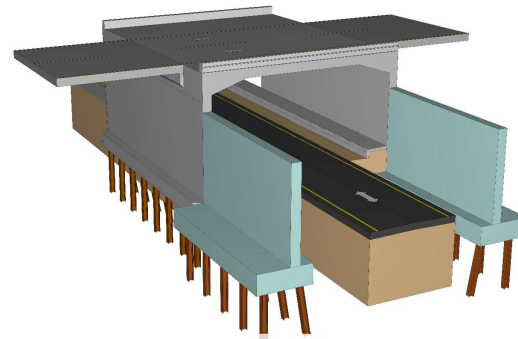
- Interstate widening south of exit 10 continues in the median, limiting right of way impacts along southbound I-81
- The wider median width of I-81 in this area allows for the additional southbound lane to be developed independently of the current northbound lanes
- The project ends at I-81 Exit 10



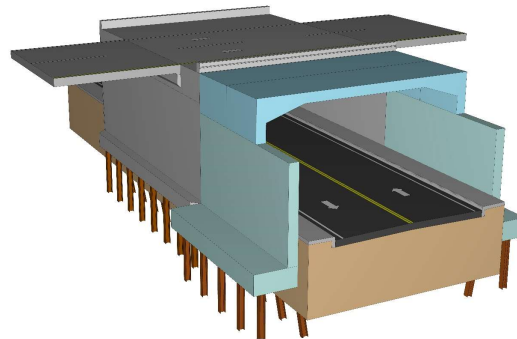
# Proposed Improvements to I-81 Southbound Bridge over Old Dominion Drive



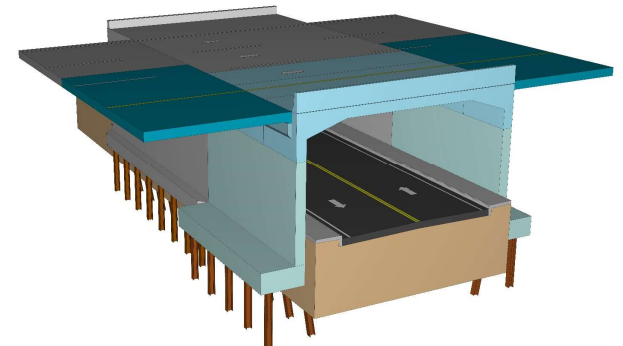
*Existing Condition*



*Construct Widened Abutments*



*Backfill Roadway and Install Precast Deck*



*Rehabilitate Existing Structure after Final Widening*



# Maintaining Traffic During Construction

## Safety is our primary concern

- During construction of I-81, traffic will be maintained with the use of concrete barriers, cones, and barrels.
- For Old Dominion Drive temporary signals, and flaggers.
- Proper signage and advanced warning electronic boards will be used.



# Environmental Reviews Completed for the Project

- **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** – Categorical Exclusion (CE) Document
- **Cultural Resources** - Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- **Streams and Wetlands** - Section 404/401 Clean Water Act (CWA) Permits
- **Biological Resources** - Section 7 Endangered Species Act (ESA) Formal Consultation
- **Preliminary Traffic Noise Study** – VDOT State Noise Abatement Policy



# Environmental Review Summary of Results

- **NEPA Document** – the project qualified for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) level NEPA document.
- **Cultural Resources** – VDOT's Cultural Resources staff concluded the project will have no-effect on historic properties.
- **Streams and Wetlands** – the project will not impact jurisdictional streams or wetlands.
- **Biological Resources** - the project review process for state and federal threatened and endangered species identified that the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat are likely to be adversely affected. However, this project falls within the scope of the *Revised Programmatic Biological Opinion for Transportation Projects in the Range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat, February 5, 2018*. Effects to these species will be addressed in accordance with the methods outlined in the Programmatic Biological Opinion.



# Environmental Review Summary of Results

- **Preliminary Traffic Noise Study** - noise modeling predicted noise impacts at 17 residences in the design year (2046) build condition due to noise levels approaching or exceeding the Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC).
  - Because design year (2046) build noise impacts have been identified in the noise study area, noise abatement is considered warranted – three noise barriers were evaluated for feasibility and reasonableness.
  - All three noise barriers evaluated as part of this noise analysis are considered feasible and reasonable.
  - Once the project design has been finalized, a Final Design Noise Analysis will be completed to reevaluate the noise levels using the final roadway plans, detailed hourly traffic data, land use information.



## Proposed Right of Way (ROW)

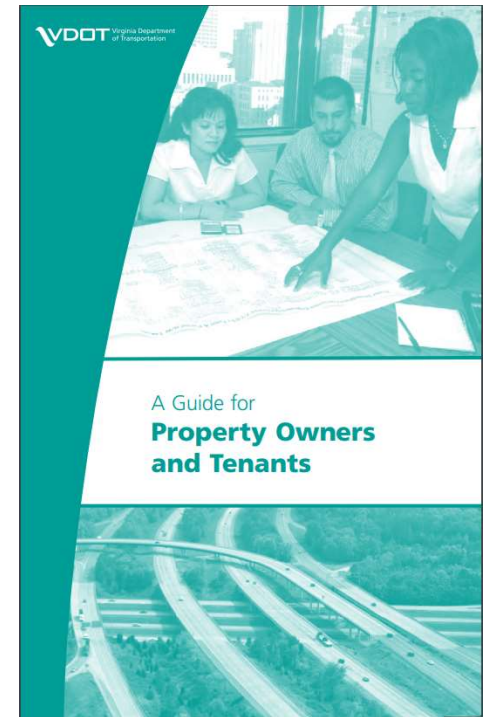
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- Approximately 1.04 acres of Fee Right-of-Way will be required.
- No residences or businesses will be displaced.
- The Limited Access Line will be adjusted in two locations.
- All Right-of-Way acquisitions will be completed in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended.



# Right of Way (ROW) Acquisition Information

- To provide uniform and equitable treatment for persons affected by a project, Congress passed the Uniform Relocations Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and as amended.
- This law, called the Uniform Act, is the foundation for the information discussed in this brochure.
- VDOT respects these fundamental rights and is committed to treating all customers with fairness and respect.



# Civil Rights

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- Representatives from VDOT are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. VDOT Bristol: 276-669-6151
- It is the responsibility of VDOT to ensure that all members of the community are afforded the opportunity to participate in public decisions on transportation systems and projects affecting them.
- VDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.



# Project Funding & Cost Estimate

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Preliminary Engineering	\$ 2.6 M
Right of Way	\$ 1.0 M
<u>Construction</u>	<u>\$ 29.5 M</u>
 Total	 \$ 33.1 M



# Estimated Timeline





## How to submit your comments

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### Leave a Voicemail

(276) 696-3255



### Email Me

[Gene.Holley@vdot.Virginia.gov](mailto:Gene.Holley@vdot.Virginia.gov)



### Mail Us

Virginia Department of Transportation  
2111 Bonham Road  
Bristol VA 24201  
ATTN: Gene Holley



### Comment

Visit  
[www.Virginiadot.org/i81SouthWideningWashCo](http://www.Virginiadot.org/i81SouthWideningWashCo)

## Quick Contacts

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- ✓ <https://virginiadot.org/i81SouthWideningWashCo>
  - ✓ Or visit [virginiadot.org](https://virginiadot.org) and search “I-81 widening southbound Bristol”
  
- ✓ **Gene Holley**  
VDOT Project Manager  
276-696-3255  
Email: [Gene.Holley@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Gene.Holley@VDOT.Virginia.gov)



**Thank you for Your Participation!**



**Virtual Design Public Hearing**

